(b) the details of the PSUs short-listed for outright strategic sale, disinvestment, joint ventures;

(c) the details of progress made, so far, in this regard; and

(d) the details of the policy changes for effective rehabilitation of sick Central PSUs on sustainable basis and funds provided/ proposed therefor during the current year and Ninth Plan period, particularly for units in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) As announced in the Budget Speech for 1998-99, the Government have decided to disinvest specified portions of equity from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) and Container Corpn. of India Ltd. (CONCOR). In respect of CONCOR, disinvestment of Government equity of 9 million shares has already been completed. In respect of other enterprises, action have already been initiated for effecting disinvestments.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment by foreign companies

48. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to allow steel, power, refinery and cellular business by foreign companies in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement has been signed by some foreign firms with private sectors of India in Mumbai and Chennai for collaboration in the above fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) Sir, as per the existing policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permissible in most sectors, including Steel, Power, Refinery and Cellular Business. In the case of Steel, FDI upto 51% is covered under the automatic route operated by the RBI. Proposals involving foreign investment over 51% in this sector are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) on a case to case basis. Foreign investment upto 100% is permissible under the automatic route in so far as the power sector is concerned provided the foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore. The Refinery Sector is also open to Foreign Direct Investment upto 49% but all the proposals in this sector require the approval of FIPB/Government. Similarly, in the case of Cellular Telephone Services, Foreign Direct Investment is permissible upto 49% and require FIPB/Government approval.

Several approvals for FDI in the above sectors have been granted, including approvals for setting up such projects in Mumbai and Chennai, details of which are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated, including the Parliament Library.

New Model Cars by Maruti-Suzuki

49. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new models of Maruti cars are being brought out to compete with Santro, Matiz and Indica etc. in small car sector of the automobile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how does Maruti-Suzuki plan to take up the challenge of these new models?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL) is not a Government Company. The Board of Directors of MUL is, therefore, competent to take appropriate commercial decisions to meet the challenge from competitors, including inter alia introduction of new models of Maruti Cars at the appropriate time.

भारतीय सीमेंट निगम में कुप्रबंधन

50. श्री शिबू सोरेन: क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय सीमेंट निगम के 7000 कर्मचारियों का भविष्य, वहां व्याप्त कुप्रबंधन के कारण खतरे में है;